

## **CASE MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC CASE FILES (CM/ECF) FACT SHEET**

### **MARCH 2002**

The federal judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) project is designed to replace aging electronic docketing and case management systems in more than 200 bankruptcy, district and appellate courts by 2005. CM/ECF will also provide courts the capability to have case file documents in electronic format, and to accept filings over the Internet if they choose to do so.

CM/ECF systems are now in use in seven district courts, twenty-six bankruptcy courts, and the Court of International Trade. Additional bankruptcy and district courts are scheduled to implement CM/ECF over the next several months. So far in these courts, more than 6 million documents in more than 1.5 million cases are on CM/ECF systems. Close to 15,000 attorneys and others have filed documents over the Internet.

Attorneys practicing in courts offering the electronic filing capability are able to file documents directly with the court over the Internet. The CM/ECF system uses standard computer hardware, an Internet connection and a browser, and accepts documents in Portable Document Format (PDF). The system is easy to use – filers prepare a document using conventional word processing software, then save it as a PDF file. After logging onto the court's web site with a court-issued password, the filer fills out several screens with basic information relating to the case, party and document being filed, attaches the document, and submits it to the court. A notice verifying court receipt of the filing is generated automatically. Other parties in the case then automatically receive e-mail notification of the filing.

CM/ECF also provides courts the ability to make their documents available to the public over the Internet. The Judicial Conference has recently adopted a set of recommendations relating to privacy and public access to electronic case files. As part of the process to develop these recommendations, public comment was sought on a number of possible approaches. The Judicial Conference's Committee on Court Administration and Case Management is now beginning to address the schedule for implementing the recommendations.

There are no added fees for filing documents over the Internet using CM/ECF; existing document filing fees do apply. Electronic access to court data is available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program. Litigants receive one free copy of documents filed electronically in their cases, which they can save or print for their files. Additional copies are available to attorneys and the general public for viewing or downloading at seven cents per page. Directed by Congress to fund electronic access through user fees, the judiciary has set the fee at the lowest possible level sufficient to recoup program costs.

The national roll-out of the CM/ECF system for bankruptcy courts started in March 2001, and is scheduled to take two to three years. The CM/ECF system for district courts is scheduled to roll out nationally starting mid-2002. The CM/ECF system for appellate courts is expected to be ready for use during the late summer of 2003.

For more information, please contact: Karen Redmond, Office of Public Affairs (202) 502-2600

## **Courts Currently Operational on CM/ECF**

*\* Courts Accepting Electronic Filing*

### *District Courts*

California Northern\*  
District of Columbia\*  
Michigan Western\*  
Missouri Western\*  
New York Eastern\*  
Ohio Northern\*  
Oregon  
  
Court of International Trade

### *Bankruptcy Courts*

Alaska  
Arizona\*  
Arkansas  
California Southern\*  
Colorado  
Delaware\*  
Georgia Northern\*  
Illinois Southern  
Iowa Northern  
Kentucky Western  
Louisiana Eastern  
Louisiana Middle\*  
Maine  
Missouri Western\*

Nebraska\*  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New York Southern\*  
North Carolina Western\*  
Ohio Northern  
South Dakota  
Texas Western\*  
Utah  
Virginia Eastern\*  
Washington Western\*  
Wisconsin Western

## **Courts Currently in the Process of Implementing CM/ECF**

### *District Courts*

Indiana Southern  
Nebraska  
New York Southern  
Pennsylvania Eastern  
Texas Northern  
Wisconsin Eastern

### *Bankruptcy Courts*

Alabama Middle  
Alabama Southern  
California Northern  
Connecticut  
District of Columbia  
Florida Middle  
Georgia Middle  
Hawaii  
Illinois Northern  
Indiana Northern  
Iowa Southern  
Kansas  
Kentucky Eastern  
Louisiana Western  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan Western  
Mississippi Northern  
Missouri Eastern  
Montana  
New Jersey  
New Mexico

New York Eastern  
New York Northern  
New York Western  
Ohio Southern  
Oklahoma Eastern  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania Eastern  
Pennsylvania Middle  
Pennsylvania Southern  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
Tennessee Middle  
Tennessee Western  
Texas Eastern  
Texas Northern  
Texas Southern  
Vermont  
West Virginia Northern  
West Virginia Southern  
Wisconsin Eastern  
Wyoming

## **Courts Starting the Implementation Process Within the Next Three Months**

### ***District Courts***

Alabama Southern

California Central

Iowa Northern

Kansas

Massachusetts

Maryland

Maine

Pennsylvania Middle

Court of International Trade